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(54) Title: METHODS AND COMPOSITION FOR IDENTIFYING THERAPEUTIC AGENTS OF ATHEROSCLEROTIC PLAQUE LESIONS

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method for identifying therapeutic agents for reducing and monitoring the growth, erosion, rupture or stability of an atherosclerotic plaque comprising the analysis of the differential expression of at least two genes coding proteins chosen among Stearoyl CoA desaturase, Phosphatidic acid phosphate, and Phosphoinositide-specific-phospholipase-B1, eventually in association with the analysis of the differential expression of at least one gene coding a protein chosen in the group comprising Aldose reductase and aldehyde reductase, Sphingomyelinase, Acid ceramidase, Ceramide glucosyl transferase, Sphingosin phosphate liase, Thymosine beta 4, Aldehyde dehydrogenase, ATPase Ca<sup>++</sup> binding protein and CD163.